

PONZI WON'T REVEAL SECRET OF RICHES

BRIDGE TIED UP BY FIRE; BLAME PUT ON B. R. T.

TO-NIGHT'S WEATHER—Fair.

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FINAL
EDITION
ITS IN THE EVENING WORLD

VOL. LXI. NO. 21,497—DAILY.

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Co. (The New York World).

NEW YORK, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1920.

Entered as Second-Class Matter
Post Office, New York, N. Y.

PRICE TWO CENTS
IN GREATER NEW YORK
THREE CENTS
ELSEWHERE

N. Y. WAKES UP, TO-BUILD 18 BIGGEST PIERS

Will Take Place of Thirty-
Two Old Structures Along
North River.

DOOMS CRAIG'S PLAN

Docks to Be Finest in World
and Great Aid to Shipping,
Says La Guardia.

The largest water-front improvement planned in fifty years, which involves the removal of thirty-two antiquated piers between Vesey and Perry Streets, North River, and the erection in their stead of eighteen of the finest in the world, has been decided upon by the Sinking Fund Commission.

Most of the piers which are to be removed were erected in 1871 when Gen. George McClellan was Commissioner of Docks. Parts of many of them were built long before that period and their origin is buried in antiquity. When they were erected they were regarded as the last word in pier construction. To-day, in the opinion of engineers, they are the greatest of all setbacks to the Port of New York.

Alderman President La Guardia says the new pier plan means the death of Comptroller Craig's lower west side freight terminal scheme which provided for an elaborate chain of warehouses connected by a maximal freight railway.

The improvement is in line with the "Wake Up New York" articles in The Evening World.

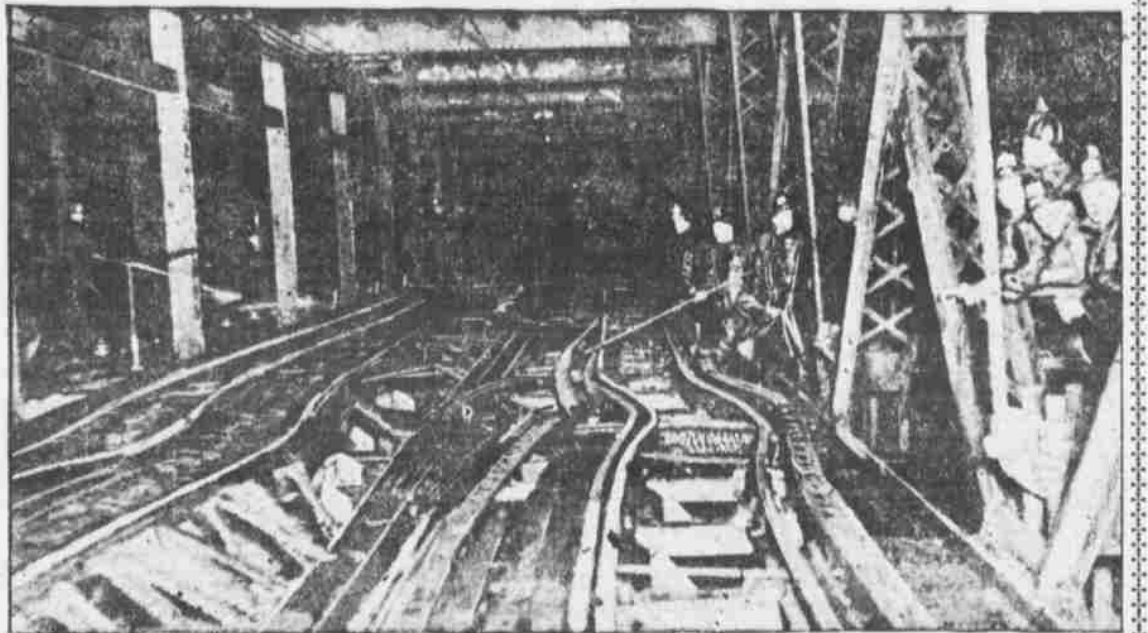
"The new plan," said President La Guardia, "means that New York is going to have eighteen piers from 950 to 1,925 feet in length in place of the thirty-two dilapidated structures which are a disgrace to the city. Between each pier there will be a maximum dockage space of 300 feet and a minimum of 275 feet. Two of the new piers will be 100 feet wide, seven 125 feet wide and nine 135 feet in width.

"The action of the Sinking Fund Commission means that the Port of New York is about to come into its own. When the Chelsea piers from 14th to 23d Street were built it was necessary to dig inland a distance of 1,800 feet. It will not be necessary to dig to any appreciable extent in laying out the new piers.

"The present route of the proposed vehicular tunnel is beneath the waterway, between two old piers at about Canal Street.

"In the event a heavy vessel sank in dock the vehicular tunnel would have been endangered. To obviate this a new pier will be built directly over

Fighting Williamsburg Bridge Fire; How Heat Twisted Rails on Structure



B. R. T. BLAMED BY WHALEN FOR WILLIAMSBURG BRIDGE FIRE THAT HOLDS UP 200,000

Blaze Laid to Improper Power
Cable, but Traction Of-
ficials Deny Charge.

Commissioner of Plant and Structures Grover A. Whalen appeared before the Board of Estimate to-day and accused the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company of direct responsibility for the Williamsburg Bridge fire early to-day, which put transportation lines out of business and inconvenienced 200,000 persons. He declared that the B. R. T. had been ordered by the Public Service Commission to use a certain type of power carriers, but that it had failed to do so.

The fire was caused by the short circuit of a cable that was improperly used by the B. R. T. as a feeder cable in direct violation of the Public Service Commission's order," said Mr. Whalen. "This cable should have been used not as a feeder cable, but as a return cable."

Commissioner Whalen said twenty-nine steel girders on the bridge were so badly warped or buckled as to necessitate their replacement. This would take at least a month, and very likely much longer because of the delay in steel manufacture and shipments, the Commissioner said.

"Is the bridge safer?" asked Mayor Hylan.

"It is," replied Whalen.

"Make a complete examination of the damage done and find out how much is needed to repair it as quickly as possible," said the Mayor, "and report back to this Board at the earliest opportunity. We will meet at any hour of the day or night to facilitate the work of repairs. Find out how much it will cost and the money will be ready for you."

William S. Minden, General Manager of the B. R. T., with William Siebert, Superintendent, inspected the damaged tracks and said he was satisfied the fire was started by a cigarette thrown away by a careless smoker. He said the city must complete its repairs before the traction company could get to work and said

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

EMPLOYEES OFFER MITTEN \$500,000 TO RUN CAR LINES

Willing to Put in Savings to
Aid President in Fight
Against Fare Raise.

PHILADELPHIA, July 29.—The savings of more than \$500,000 of the 11,600 employees of the Philadelphia Rapid Transit Company have been offered to Thomas E. Mitten, president of the company, who, since his break with E. T. Stotesbury, finds finances rather scant to meet the company's expenditures. The employees also assured Mr. Mitten he could have their future savings without interest in the emergency.

Mitten declined the offer, which was made simultaneously with another suggesting that the wage increase be deferred until the emergency had been passed. Mitten is seeking financial aid to fight the interests represented by Mr. Stotesbury, Horatio G. Lloyd and G. W. S. Packard, all of whom have resigned from the company's directorate over the refusal of the board to vote favorably on a seven-cent fare proposal.

NO MERCY SHOWN TO SUGAR HOARDER

Federal officials to-day are discussing the probable effect upon sugar hoarding of the sentence of two years in the Federal Prison at Atlanta imposed at midnight last night by Federal Judge H. D. Howe upon Aaron Lassen, East Side grocer, convicted of violating the Lever Act, prohibiting hoarding of foodstuffs.

The sentence imposed upon Lassen, who was charged with having hoarded 250,000 pounds of sugar in warehouses in New York and Jersey City, was the most severe the Court could impose under the law. Judge Howe declared he hoped it would have a "salutary effect," adding he believed "jail sentences will go a long way toward halting both hoarding and profiteering."

Another grocer, Aaron Aronson, tried jointly with Lassen, was acquitted. The trial had lasted five days and the case went to the jury yesterday at noon.

ASKS \$38,690,910 FUND TO IMPROVE SCHOOLS AT ONCE

Dr. Prall, in Letter to Mayor,
Suggests 18 New Build-
ings and 12 Sites.

An immediate appropriation of \$38,690,910 for new school buildings and school sites is suggested by a letter of Dr. Anning S. Prall, President of the Board of Education to Mayor Hylan, paying the way for an application to the Budget Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

There is immediate urgent need, Dr. Prall tells the Mayor, for eighteen new elementary schools and additions to schools, for twelve new school sites, for a new school for the deaf, for fifty-one portable school buildings, improvement of playgrounds, four new high school buildings, and one new high school site, and for a supply depository. It is also recommended that the present Board of Education site and building be sold to meet the company's expenditures. The employees also assured Mr. Mitten he could have their future savings without interest in the emergency.

The big items are \$20,635,300 for elementary buildings and \$2,000,000 for elementary sites; \$1,359,765 for a new training school which will release space for elementary schools; \$1,422,000 for the school for the deaf; \$585,845 for the playgrounds; \$7,850,000 for the high school items; \$1,250,000 for the supply warehouse, and \$5,500,000 for the new headquarters (less proceeds of sale of present headquarters).

The estimate is based, according to Dr. Prall, on a careful study of four considerations: (1) congestion with figures of actual number of pupils on part time and in double session schools; (2) growth of school population in various districts of the city for five years and estimates of growth for two years to come; (3) increase likely to result from new transit facilities with regard to the duty of the city to make these areas attractive to

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

CONFESSION MADE TO SAVE SLAYER WAS ALL A FAKE

Baron Admits He Knew Nothing
of Murder for Which
Boy Was Executed.

MOVED BY AN IMPULSE.

Told Story to Police Fifteen
Minutes After Young Hyatt
Died in Chair.

After getting the Police Department upset by confessing he committed the murder for which Elmer Hyatt, nineteen years old, was executed at Sing Sing last night, Robert Baron said in the psychopathic ward at Bellevue to-day that he suddenly took an interest in the case and decided to get Hyatt's execution delayed for 24 hours.

Baron, as his name appears on the hospital register, gave his address as No. 482 Atlantic Avenue, Brooklyn, but admits it is fictitious. He just used that address, he said, "on the spur of the moment." He refused to give any other address or any information about himself until he could talk to the Cuban Consul General.

The policemen, who telephoned Sing Sing last night to ask for delay in Hyatt's execution on the strength of Baron's "confession" and were just 15 minutes too late, were sceptical about Baron's desire to talk to the Consul General. However, they telephoned the Consul's office and asked to have a representative sent to Bellevue to see Baron.

Baron said he knew nothing about the killing of Policeman William A. O'Brien in Rochester last May, except what he had read in the newspapers. Dr. M. S. Gregory, in charge of the Psychopathic Department at Bellevue, said Baron appeared to have suffered privation and gave the impression that he had severe financial reverses. He had refused to submit to any physical examination until he heard from the Cuban official, Dr. Gregory said, claiming that the Cuban Government "knows all about him."

Baron telephoned Police Headquarters last night and said he was the real slayer of Policeman O'Brien. While he was held in conversation on the wire the West 47th Street Station was notified and sent a man to the telephone booth from which Baron was calling. Baron insisted on typing his "confession," but refused to sign it.

The police sent him to Bellevue, where Dr. William P. Smith said he recognized him as a former inmate in the Brooklyn High School. He knew him as Barranco, Dr. Smith said, and he was an unusually bright student and won numerous honors.

E. A. Turner, a real estate dealer at No. 41 East 29th Street, said Baron had been there for a month. Hyatt, whose life Baron tried to save, was put to death in Sing Sing last night after his mother and brother had made a vain appeal to Gov. Smith. Hyatt had confessed the murder of Policeman O'Brien, after fifteen burglaries. He claimed to be only seventeen and a half years old when convicted, and eighteen when executed. The Governor said he was a year older. He is the first murderer under twenty put to death in the chair at Sing Sing, it is said.

"Angel of Montauk" Dead.
BOSTON, July 29.—Dr. Laura A. C. Houghton, known as the "Angel of Montauk," for her work as a nurse among troops at Camp Wyndham, Long Island, during the Spanish War, died to-day. She was one of the first graduates of Tufts Medical School, being given the degree M. D. in 1895.

522 Men's & Young Men's Suits, \$14.95.
The "HUB" Clothing Store, 100 Broadway, corner Barclay Street, opposite Washington Building, special for to-day and Saturday, 522 Men's and Young Men's Suits, \$14.95. Includes: 522 Men's Suits, \$14.95; 522 Young Men's Suits, \$14.95. All suits made to order. Free delivery. Open Saturday 10 to 12. Run by children. Broadway, corner Barclay Street.—Adv.

(Racing News on Page 2.)

GIVES AN ORDER FOR 4,000 POUNDS OF LIVE SNAKES

Buffalo Man Must Have Them
Within Six Weeks—Will
Pay \$1,200.

PASCAGOULA, Miss., July 30.—POSTMASTER WILLIAM T. SPARKMAN of this city is in need of several experienced and enterprising snake charmers to fill an order for "between 4,000 and 5,000 pounds of live snakes" received from Bert Putnam, a member of the Chamber of Commerce of Buffalo, N. Y.

Delivery of the snakes must be made within the next six weeks, the order stipulated, and the price offered is 30 cents a pound. BUFFALO, July 30.—"Such an order is a very common thing with us," Herbert Putnam, bird and animal dealer, said to-day. "We are large dealers in snakes and have a great demand for them. We have customers in every part of the United States and Canada, mainly circuses, carnivals and patent medicine concerns."

GANG GETS ABOARD ON JIMMY KELLY'S "SURE THING" TIP

Scrubwoman Shares in Clean-
up Said to Have Been Made
at Empire Track Horse.

Charles Ponzi, the quick money multi-millionaire, has nothing in the way of methods on Jimmy Kelly of the east side. Jimmy keeps a saloon which used to keep him, in Heister Street near Centre, and has a two-year-old fully named Wedgewood, famed as a consistent loser.

Yesterday Wedgewood won. Jimmy went home with a roll which gave his personal appearance that of a man in the last stages of droop. Not only did Jimmy go home with his pockets uncomfortably filled with pelf, but so did also newboys, bootblacks, barbers, gangsters and other prominent financiers of the east side and lower Brooklyn.

For Wedgewood was a "sure thing," and when Kelly, whose other name is Pasquale di Silvio, not only got down all the coin that he could rake and scrape and borrow, he passed the tip to his cronies and clientele that Wedgewood was out to win. The odds on the regular loser opened at 15 to 1, and when the horses went to the post they had been hammered down to 2 to 1. Then the bookmakers began to wonder, and the wonder grew greater as the odds grew less and less, and some of them shut up shop and would take no more bets.

"What is this Wedgewood?" demanded one. "Man-o-War painted up?" But they were too late. The money was down and not a chance to hedge. Wedgewood got away with as good a start as he did on the books. He got away in the lead and kept it all around the track while his contenders seemed to stand still. There was nothing to do but sit tight and make after the race started and wait till the announcement and then cash in.

There were means of despair and

(Continued on Seventh Page.)

Five Hurt When Auto Turns Turtle.

The automobile of Charles O'Neill, No. 154 Union Street, Jersey City, ran into a hole in Jackson Avenue at the Newark and New York Railroad Bridge to-day and turned turtle. O'Neill received a possible fracture over his right eye. His daughter, Helen, 19, and Norah, 5, Veranda, Hiram, 12, of No. 43 Edge Avenue, and William Christman, 23, No. 366 Jackson Avenue, were badly cut. All were treated at City Hospital.

PONZI, IN AN AMAZING STORY, TELLS OF \$16,000,000 MADE BUT WON'T TELL HIS SECRET

But as to His Great Organization
Abroad He Says: "That Is My
System for Which I Have Refused
a Million Dollars"—Plans Great
Chain of Banks With One Here.

By Marguerite Mooers Marshall.

(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

BOSTON, July 30.—"I came to America," Charles Ponzi told me, the playfulness of arched brows and smiling mouth contradicted by the assured note in his voice and the keenness of the brown glance, "because I thought I was wasted in Italy!"

And on that point I think the world will agree with Charles Ponzi, whatever its ultimate verdict on the righteousness and legality of the methods by which, according to his own admission, this wizard of finance—while-you-wait has cleaned up in six months a fortune of some \$16,000,000 for himself, has given thousands of investors 50 per cent. on their money, has operated from a central office of two rooms attended by twelve clerks and has done the whole blessed thing with postage stamps—nothing in the world but postage stamps plus a knowledge of world postal regulations and of foreign exchange, plus an idea of magnificent simplicity and apparently bombproof consistency, plus all the nerve there is.

FEW NOW DEMAND RETURN OF MONEY GIVEN TO PONZI

About \$1,500,000 Paid Out,
Secretary Says—Govern-
ment Orders Inquiry.

BOSTON, July 30.—Only a short time formed this morning before the payment window of Charles Ponzi, and when disbursement was resumed clerks said they were paying off almost as much on notes matured for the 50 per cent. profit in 45 days, as they were returning to frightened investors in principal without interest on notes surrendered short of maturity. The virtual end of the five-day run was in sight with few additions to the disappearing line.

The amount paid out by Ponzi since the run began on Monday was estimated by his manager, Miss Lucy Mell, at \$1,500,000. "And we have twice as much money right here in Boston as Mr. Ponzi owes, so there is no need of any one being nervous," she added. Ponzi a few days ago announced that his liabilities were about \$3,000,000, indicating that public participation in his schemes already has been reduced by one-half, with further receipts stopped by his agreement with the authorities to accept no more deposits until investigation of his accounts is completed.

Examination of the books, however, according to Miss Mell, will not solve the mystery of how Ponzi has made his money. With his ready satisfaction of all demands for payment, question has turned from his solvency to "how does he do it?"

To the statements of Postmaster Putnam of New York that there are not enough international postal con-

(Continued on Second Page.)

Ponzi belongs to America, land of 520 per cent. Miller, of the man who cornered wheat, of all the other get-rich-quick Wallingfords and the successful practitioners of "There's millions in it!" Ponzi would be wasted anywhere else, even if postal authorities and District Attorneys are putting their heads together and solemnly repeating the famous nursery injunction, "Find out what Tommie is doing and tell him to stop!"

SAYS HE'S ATTACKED FOR LET-

TING PEOPLE PROFIT.

"They don't to this moment know what Ponzi has been doing, but they feel that if he hasn't broken a law he ought to have broken one—"they ought to be a law!" Ponzi says he is attacked because, though, outside of Wall Street he actually dared to make \$16,000,000 in six months, and above all, to let in on the ground floor Giuseppe Bold of Boston's North End or Mike Geraghty of Roxbury—people who ought to thank the banks for taking care of their money and for giving them as much interest as is good for them. On the other hand, it is hinted that Ponzi has played 520 per cent. Miller's old game of taking from one man to pay another and making no money at all. Take your choice of explanations!

Meanwhile, Charles Ponzi sits in his hot little School Street office, in the very shadow of Boston's City Hall, cheerily signing checks for the line of timid folks who "want their money back"—and are GETTING it back! Or Charles Ponzi sits in the sun parlor of his beautiful new stucco home at No. 19 Blumum Road, Lexington, where I talked with him for an hour yesterday morning and where he is the debonair, well-dressed, well-groomed gentleman, without a care or a fear in the world. He plans, even now, how he will expand his business and open a New York office as soon as the authorities are through with his books. He is about five feet six in height, but he has the erect, confident bearing, the almost insolent carriage of the shoulders, which only come in pictures of the young Napoleon. His dark, thick hair, moderately long, parted on one side and very well brushed, has threads of gray in it. He has the olive skin and white teeth of most of his countrymen. He was born in Parma, Italy, but his strong, bony nose, wide between the eyes, is highly individual, as are the eyes

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